



# First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden

## From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

### *Advent Devotional 2020*

*Galatians 4:4-5* But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals. Today is Christmas. God bless you, one and all.

### Scripture

**Luke 2:1-21** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Song

*Psalm 59:16* But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

#### ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light eternal,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created, [*Refrain*]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [*Refrain*]

("O Come, All Ye Faithful" words and tune by John Francis Wade (1743) tr. Frederick Oakeley (1841).  
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## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14* *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

### ***"The Gift of Gifts"***

A prayer from *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers*.

O source of all good,  
What shall I render to you for the gift of gifts,  
your own dear Son?

Herein is wonder of wonders:  
he came below to raise me above,  
was born like me that I might become like him.

Herein is love;  
when I cannot rise to him he draws near on wings of grace,  
to raise me to himself.

Herein is power;  
when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart,  
he united them in indissoluble unity,  
the uncreated and the created.

Herein is wisdom;  
when I was undone, with no will to return to him,  
and no intellect to devise recovery,  
he came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost,  
as man to die my death,  
to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,  
to work out a perfect righteousness for me!

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,  
and enlarge my mind!

Let me hear good tidings of great joy,  
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,  
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,  
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father!

Place me with ox, donkey, camel, goat,  
to look with them upon my Redeemer's face,  
and in him account myself delivered from sin!

Let me with Simeon clasp the newborn child to my heart,  
embrace him with undying faith,  
exulting that he is mine and I am his!

In him you have given me so much that heaven can give no more.